

#### **IV. B. 14. National Recreation Areas**

- a) Background. National Recreation Areas were established by the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to recognize exceptional recreational areas warranting Federal ownership and management within the United States. There is presently one designated National Recreation Area within Colorado, Curecanti National Recreation Area, and it is maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, under a cooperative agreement.



Curecanti  
National Recreation Area

Proposed Rural Development actions in or near this area merit special evaluation because of its national prominence.

- b) Governing Regulations.
- (1) National Park System General Authorities Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 825), as amended.
  - (2) National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (92 Stat. 3518, 16 U.S.C. 1a-5).
  - (3) U.S. Executive Order 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality.
  - (4) National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321.
  - (5) Title 7, Part 1b and 1c, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Environmental Policy Act.
- c) Policy. Rural Development should not authorize, fund, or carry out any proposal or project which would adversely affect the unique values and benefits of designated or nominated National Recreation Areas. Whenever a proposed action is determined to have the potential for impacting a National Recreation Area, the Department of the Interior, National Park



Service should be consulted as early in the environmental impact analysis process as possible to evaluate the possible consequences and protection requirements concerning the action.

d) Classification.

- (1) Designated National Recreation Area.

e) Agency Jurisdiction.: The Curecanti National Recreation Area is currently jointly managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management under a cooperative agreement. Both agencies should be contacted for decision-making input.

- (1) U.S. Department of the Interior:

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Intermountain Region  
P.O. 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

Contact: Hal Grovert, Superintendent, Colorado Plateau and Rocky Mountain Clusters, (303) 969-2800

[http://www.nps.gov/pub\\_aff/imfa.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/imfa.htm)

- (2) U.S. Bureau of Land Management:

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Colorado State Office  
Natural Resources  
2850 Youngfield Street  
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7076

Contact: Bob Schmidt, (303) 239-3801.

<http://www.co.blm.gov>



- f) Location of Resource. National Recreation Areas represent recreation area resources of national importance. One is currently designated within the State of Colorado:

**Curecanti National Recreation Area:** 10 miles west of Gunnison. Three lakes: Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal, extend for 40 miles along the Gunnison River. When full, Blue Mesa Lake, with a surface area of 14 square miles, is the largest lake in Colorado. Administered by cooperative agreement between the National Parks Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

- g) Other references.

- (1) National Park Service

(Curecanti National Recreation Area web-site)

<http://www.nps.gov/cure/>